

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated July 13, 2005. Claims 1-5 have been canceled. Claims 6-34 are pending.

Claims 12-27 stand rejected under Section 101 and Section 112, because of the recitation of “method” steps in these claims. Claims 12-27 have been amended to change the method steps to *means-plus-function* limitations pursuant to 35 U.S.C. Section 112, paragraph 6. Thus, these claims no longer recite method steps and the Section 101, 112 rejections have been overcome.

Claims 1-5, which were rejected over art, have been canceled. The remaining claims have not been rejected over any prior art.

In particular, claims 6, 7, 8, 12, 14 and 27 have essentially been rewritten in independent form. Since these claims were not rejected over any art, it is respectfully submitted that they are now in condition for allowance. Thus, all pending independent claims are now in condition for allowance.

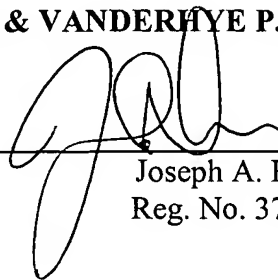
If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with respect to the same.

YAMAGUCHI, A. et al.
Appl. No. 10/726,068
October 11, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYTE P.C.

By: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JAR', is written over a horizontal line.

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